Amendments To The Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 16 to page 6, line 11 with the following:

The process of frame serialization is illustrated in FIG. 3, wherein a plurality of frames having sequence numbers 24 are received by the frame serialization stage 20. The frame serialization stage further receives expected sequence number data, V(R), from the RLP layer. An output of the frame serialization stage 20 is a serialized sequence of frames 26. In the example illustrated in FIG. 3, the expected sequence number, V(R) is 11, the received frames are numbered 12, 13, 15, 16 and 99 along with an erasure frame 28 and an invalid frame 30. The frame serialization stage 20 is operable to insert a place holding frame "X" in place of potentially missing frames. Thus, the serialized frame sequence 32 26 is shown in FIG. 3 as "X 12 13 X 15 16 99" where "Xs" have been inserted for the apparently missing frames 11 and 14. Once the sequence has been serialized, the sequenced frames may be filtered by the bad frame filter stage 22. In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the frame bearing sequence number "99" would be reclassified as an erasure because it is substantially out of sequence in comparison with the expected sequence number and the maximum number of frames that could be received within a particular time slot.

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